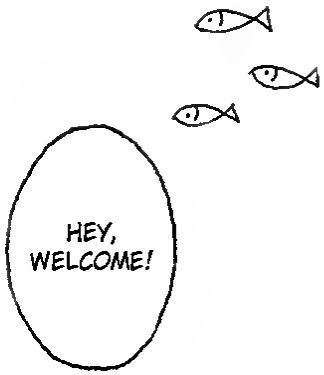

HEY,
WELCOME!

CHAPTER TWO: TAKOYAKI AND THE MOON
WE GOT SOME REALLY TASTY SELECTIONS COME IN TODAY
SALTED ROAST FISH, MEUNIERE— YOU NAME IT!
IS THAT RIGHT? THEN I'LL HAVE THE MEUNIERE.
OH? DID YOUR MOMMY SEND YOU HERE ON A CHORE? GOOD GIRL!
IF YOU WANT, I CAN SLICE IT UP INTO THREE
NO THANK YOU.
I WILL DO THAT *PROPERLY* MYSELF.
1

SALE
EH?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
LIFT
2
H. HEY, WAIT!
YOU CAN'T!
I'LL DO THAT FOR YOU!
IT'LL BE FINE.
I CAN HANDLE IT.
AND WE'VE GOTTA WASH THE ORGANS TOO, YOU KNOW!
HMPH
GRACIOUS ...

CHAPTER TWO
TAKOYAKI AND THE MOON

HOW RUDE OF THAT YOUNG MAN!
SIZZLE

HONESTLY... TREATING ME LIKE A LITTLE GIRL WHO CAN'T CUT UP ONE LITTLE FISH...
STEAM
STEAM
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
THE ONE WORKING AT THE GROCERY STORE!
HUH?

BUT HE WAS JUST OFFERING TO CUT IT UP FOR YOU— FOR FREE.
YES HE DID!
THEN WHAT'S THE HARM IN LETTING HIM?
FLIP

THE FIRST THING I LEARNED FROM MY MOTHER AFTER PUTTING ON AN APRON
IS HOW TO SLICE HEADS OFF FISH WITH A KITCHEN CARVER
IS THAT RIGHT?

DEAR.
YOUR NANNY HAS HER PRIDE!
B... BUT I CAN'T. IN FACT, I WON'T ALLOW IT.
YOU WON'T ALLOW IT?
WHY?
AH, AND PLEASE TAKE THE NEWSPAPER OFF THE TABLE.
I HOPE YOU ENJOY
MY PRIDE, HONEY, MY PRIDE.
THANKS FOR THE FOOD
YOUR... WHAT?
I WAS THINKING OF BUYING THEM, JUST TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR YOU.
WELL, IT'S JUST THAT WE DON'T HAVE A RICE COOKER, A WASHING MACHINE OR EVEN A TEA WATER DISPENSER.
OHH, DON'T FUSS ABOUT THAT
THAT I DID, WHY?
SO, ABOUT THIS RICE
DID YOU COOK IT IN A POT AGAIN?

BUT WE HAD ALL SORTS OF APPLIANCES BACK AT MY OLD HOME.
THAT WAS THEN AND THIS IS NOW.
I CAN HANDLE THINGS JUST FINE RIGHT NOW.
DON'T FUSS ABOUT IT?
I CAN LEARN TO LIVE WITHOUT THEM.
BESIDES, FEW PEOPLE HAD THOSE THINGS WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.
AND I AM NOT GOING TO LET YOU WASTE YOUR MONEY.

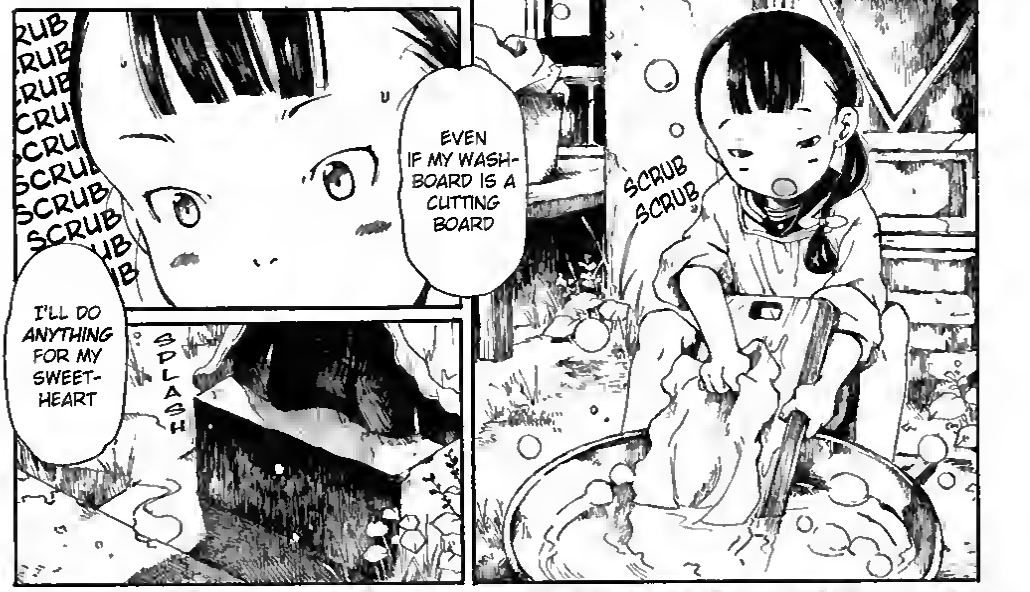
I WON'T BE A BURDEN TO YOU AND I WON'T HAVE YOU SPEND MONEY ON ME!
THOSE ARE YOUR THREE WON'TS* FROM YOUR NANNY!
FLICK
...BUT I ONLY HEARD TWO.
WOULD YOU LIKE SECONDS, DEAR?
THERE'S PLENTY LEFT.
PLIP
NO, I REALLY...
SURE
THANKS

*REFERRING TO THE JAPANESE "THREE WON'TS" CAMPAIGN BACK IN THE EIGHTIES URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO BAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM DRIVING, PURCHASING VEHICLES, OR OBTAINING OPERATING LICENSES. THE MOVEMENT CAME AS A BACKLASH AGAINST THE RISE IN MOTORCYCLE GANGS AND TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

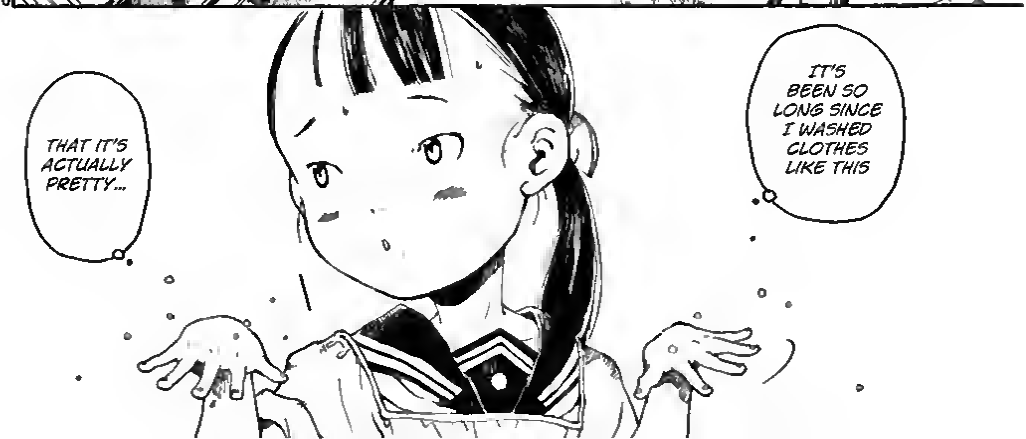
IN ONE EPISODE, THAT BOY BECAME SO USED TO HIS HOST MOTHER'S COOKING THAT HE COULD NOT GO BACK TO EATING ICKY NINJA FOOD.
CLATTER
DO YOU REMEMBER THAT NINJA ANIME WE USED TO WATCH WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?
TAKING THE EASY WAY WILL JUST CAUSE PROBLEMS LATER ON.
HERE.
YOU WON'T LET GO OF THAT, WILL YOU?
NO, I HAVE TO BUY THEM FOR CONVENIENCE SAKE.
I'M TELLING YOU, HON, I'M FINE.
YOUR NANNY WILL BE WAITING WITH HER DELICIOUS, NUTRITIOUS MEALS
DEAR.
HATTORI-KUN?
STILL, AFTER ALL THIS TIME I MADE FOOD FOR YOU
WEEP
OH MY...
YOU'VE FINALLY GROWN TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT HOW IT'S MADE.
WHENEVER YOU COME HOME FROM WORK FAMISHED
POUR
BUT YOU NEEDN'T BE CONCERNED.

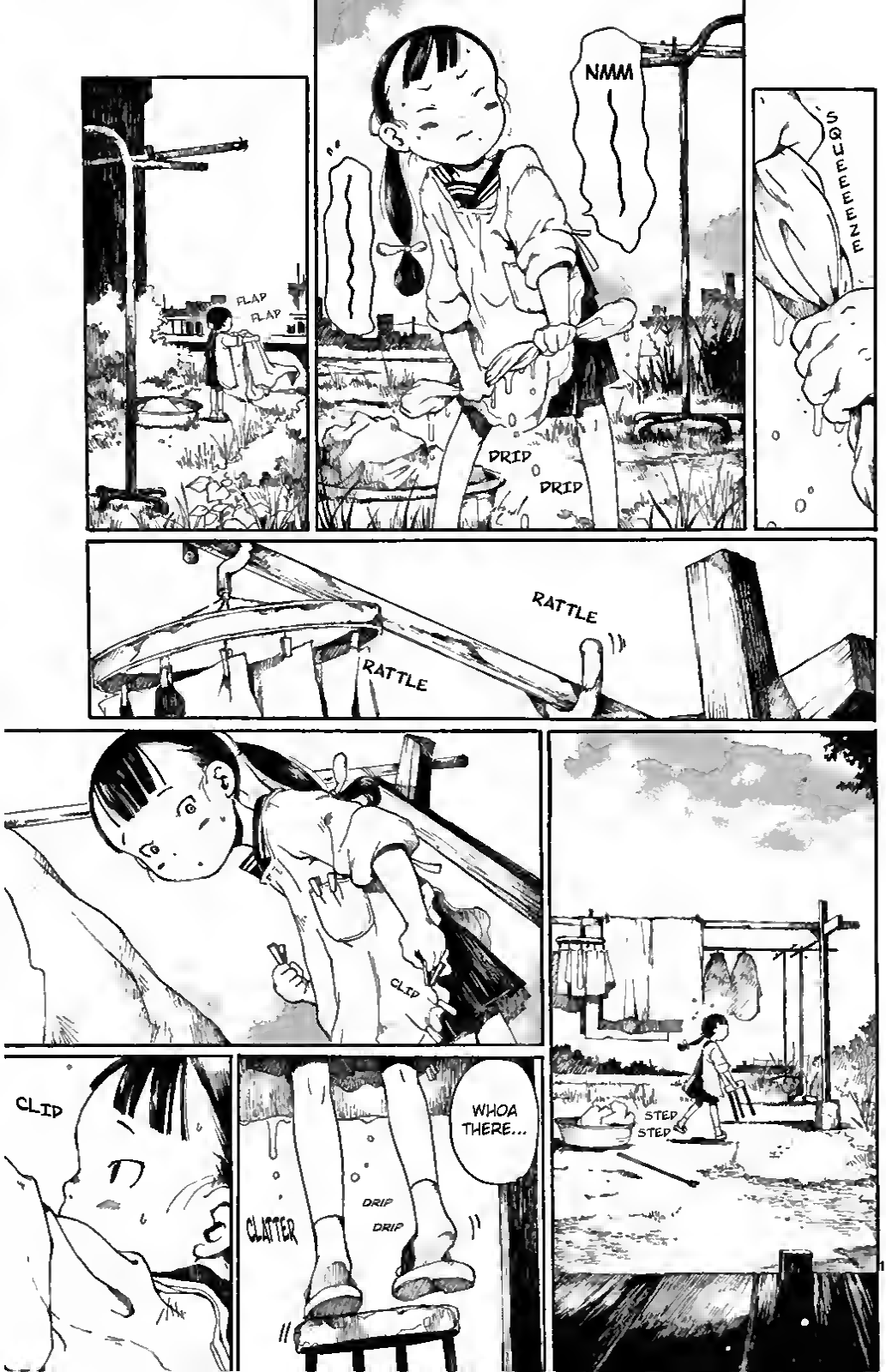
...
A MAN WHO MAKES HIS LUNCH. EH?
KOITO-SENSEI, WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT OUT?
OH, I BROUGHT MY OWN FOOD.
HAH HAH
SENSEI! GOOD-BYE!
GO STRAIGHT HOME
MACHIKANE SEMINAR LEARNING CENTER
3F-4F
WANT NOTHING
STAY ● PROUD
UNTIL VICTORY!
THAT'S... A NICE USE OF SEAWEED.
TL NOTE: RICE SAYS A JAPANESE WWII SLOGAN; THE TOMATO IN THE MIDDLE IS THE RISING SUN IN THE NATIONAL FLAG
THANKS FOR THE PRESENT YOU GAVE ME THE OTHER DAY.
EH— AH!
PAH
KOITO-SENSEI
CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT WE'RE HAVING FOR DINNER.
YOU'LL ALSO LOVE WHAT WE'RE HAVING FOR DINNER
I MADE A VERY SPECIAL LUNCH FOR YOU, DEAR.
SHE DID TRY TO WARN ME...

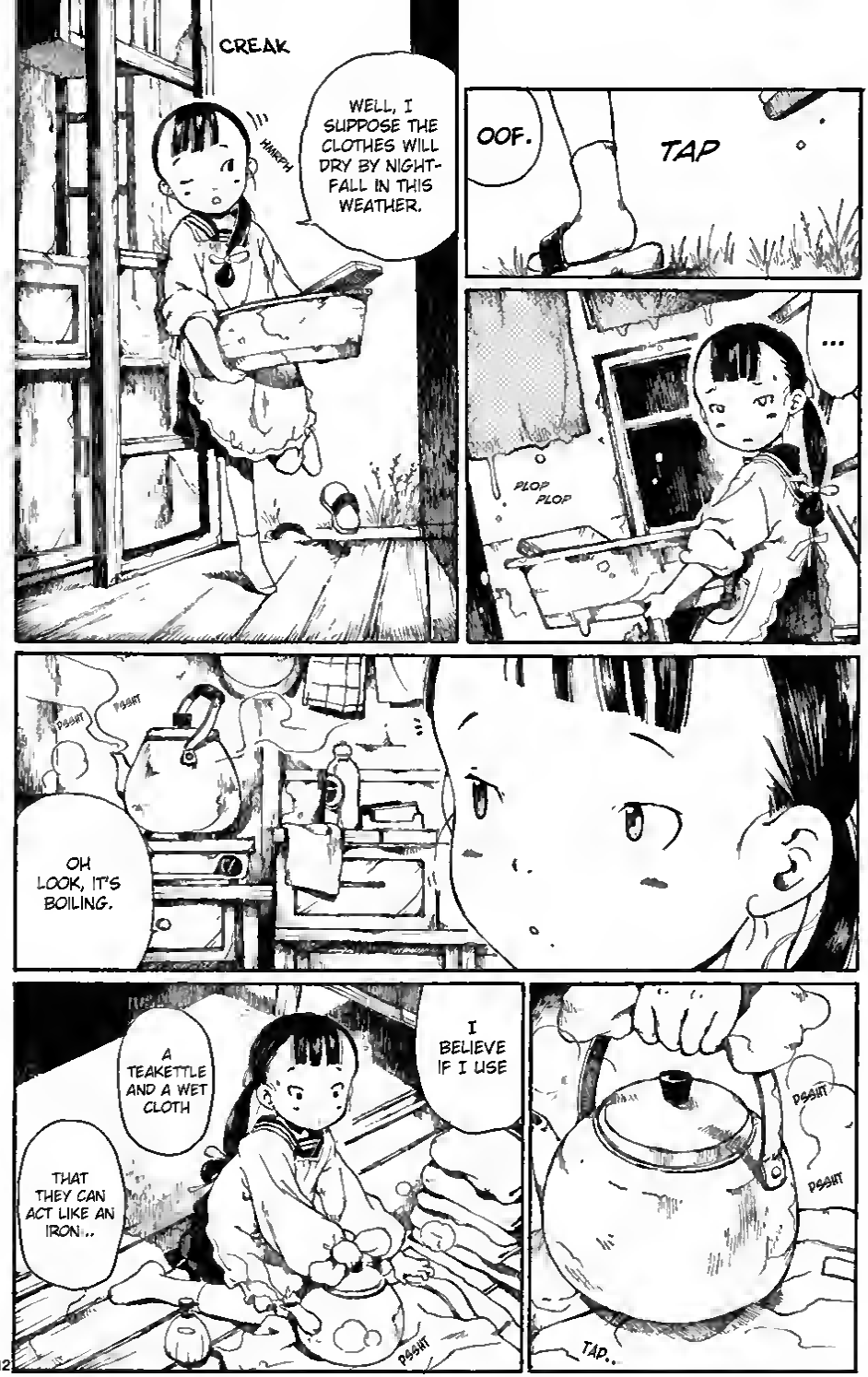
...
SAY...
SO YOU'RE LEAVING AT THE END OF THE MONTH?
N-NO, DON'T MENTION IT. AH, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR WEDDING.
I LIVED ALONE SO LONG THAT I AMASSED A WHOLE BUNCH OF STUFF.
I'M SO BUSY WITH THE MOVE THAT MY EYES ARE PRACTICALLY SPINNING
9
ANYTHING FOR MY SWEETHEART ♪
ENYA KORA! ♪


SCRUB SCRUB
EVEN IF MY WASH-BOARD IS A CUTTING BOARD
I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR MY SWEET-HEART
SPLASH

AHH, OOFTAH.
TAP

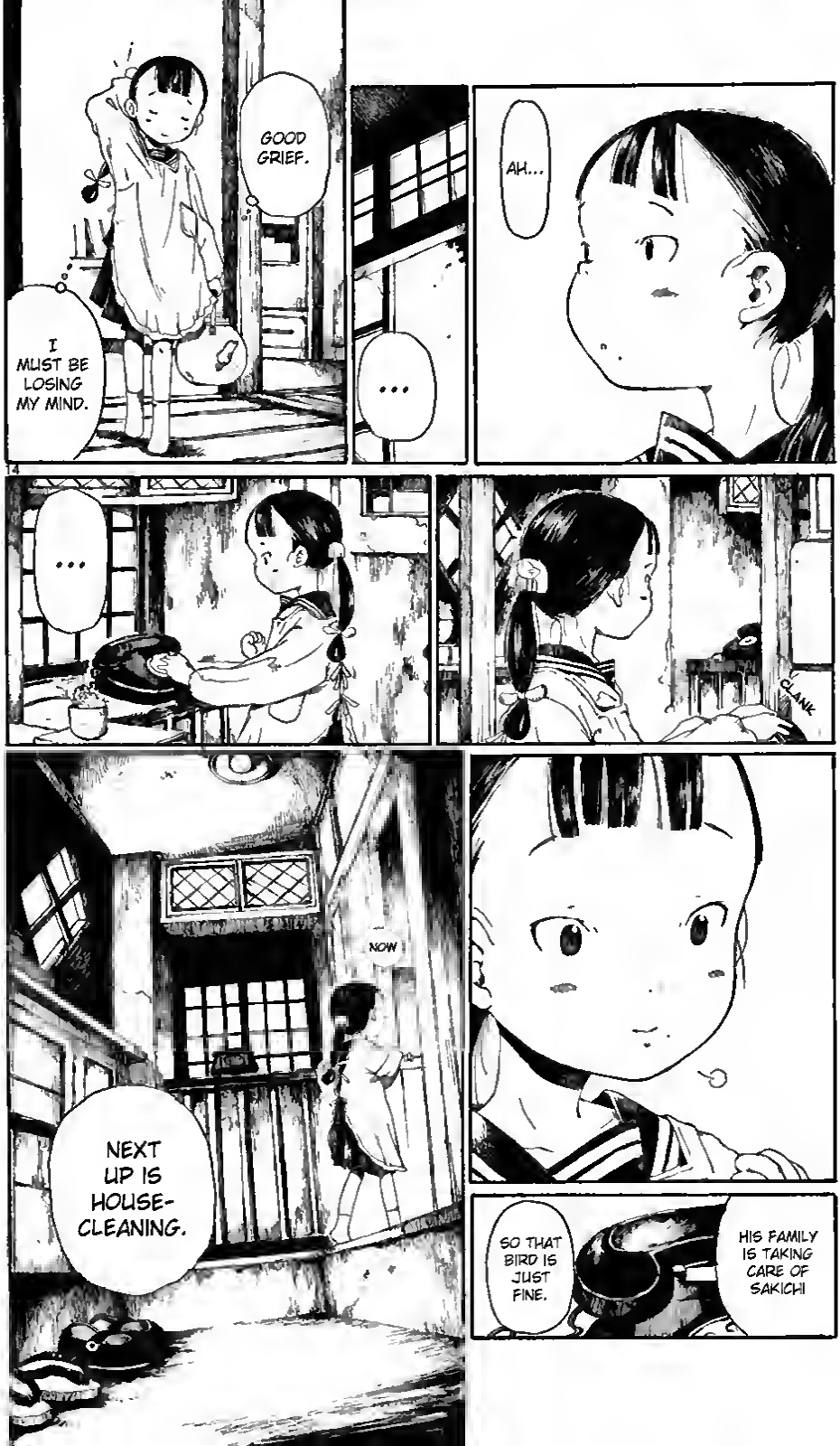

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I WASHED CLOTHES LIKE THIS
THAT IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY...


FLAP
FLAP
NMM
DRIP
DRIP
SQUEEEEEZE
RATTLE
RATTLE
CLIP
CLIP
WHOA THERE...
CLATTER
DRIP
DRIP
STEP
STEP

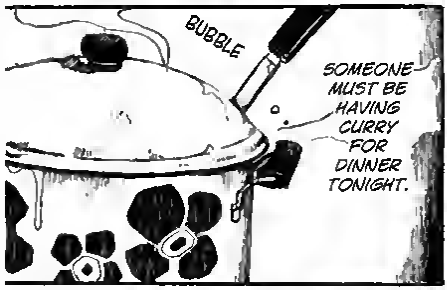

CREAK
HAHKPH
WELL, I SUPPOSE THE CLOTHES WILL DRY BY NIGHT-FALL IN THIS WEATHER.
OOF.
TAP
...
PLOP
PLOP
PSSHT
PSSHT
OH LOOK, IT'S BOILING.
A TEAKETTLE AND A WET CLOTH
I BELIEVE IF I USE
THAT THEY CAN ACT LIKE AN IRON..
PSSHT
PSSHT
PSSHT
TAP..

12

DOZO
A NANNY'S WILL CAN CUT THROUGH ANY BOULDER
PRESS PRESS
NO, I'M JUST NOT TRYING HARD ENOUGH
WHITE DRESS SHIIRTS ARE HIS FIGHTING CLOOOTHES
DARN IT. THE CUFFS AND THE COLLAR AREN'T FLATTENING RIGHT.
WILL YOU LOOK AT THE TIME.
AND ALL JUST FROM LAUNDERING AND IRONING.
13
I WONDER IF THIS IS THE TIME HE EATS AT HIS OLD HOME.
NO, NO. THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I NEED TO WORK HARDER THAN BEFORE
OR ELSE WHAT'S THE POINT OF COMING HERE...
OH GOOD-NESS GRACIOUS
I HAVE TO FEED SAKICHI...

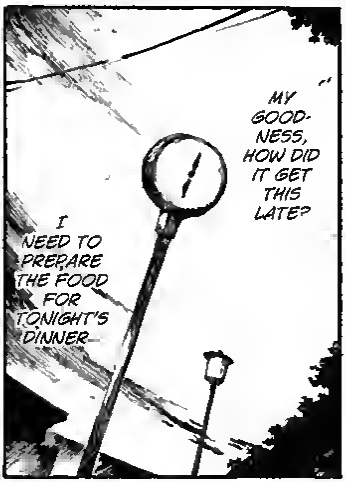

GOOD GRIEF.
I MUST BE LOSING MY MIND.
...
AH...
...
CLANK
NOW
NEXT UP IS HOUSE-CLEANING.
SO THAT BIRD IS JUST FINE.
HIS FAMILY IS TAKING CARE OF SAKICHI

AHH, THAT SMELL...

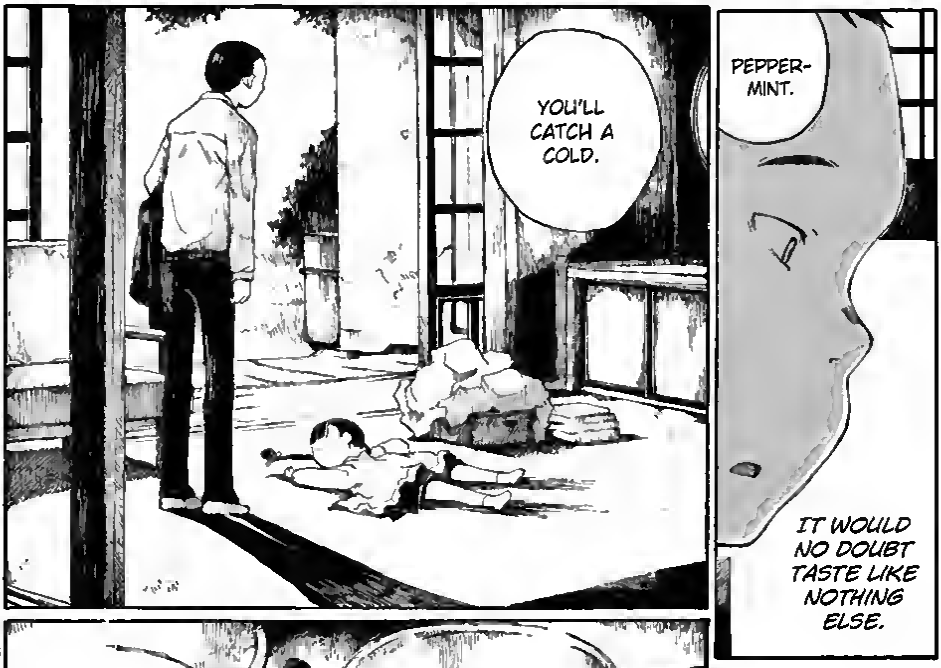

BUBBLE
SOMEONE MUST BE HAVING CURRY FOR DINNER TONIGHT.

AH! CURRY!
I'M HOME!
PERHAPS I SHOULD MAKE CURRY FOR HIM AS WELL.

AND THAT BOY H.D AN EARLY SHIFT TODAY, SO HE'LL BE COMING HOME ANY TIME SOON.


MY GOOD-NESS, HOW DID IT GET THIS LATE?
I NEED TO PREPARE THE FOOD FOR TONIGHT'S DINNER.

SOCKS? THOSE I DON'T NEED.
I WILL NEED CARROTS, ONIONS, POTATOES... SOCKS...
PEPPER-MINT.
I WONDER HOW MY CURRY WOULD TURN OUT IF I ADDED ANY PEPPERMINT...
PEPPERMINT?
PEPPER-MINT.


YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
PEPPER-MINT.
IT WOULD NO DOUBT TASTE LIKE NOTHING ELSE.

16

I'M...
I'M SO ASHAMED...
I... I WAS ONLY GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE CATNAP, BUT...
DON'T WORRY, IT'S FINE.
I'LL BET YOU WERE WORN OUT.
BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO PREPARE DINNER.
IT'S FINE. WE CAN ALWAYS GO OUT TO EAT.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO EAT?
EH?
PEPPER-MINT.
ACTUALLY, I'M FINE WITH ANY-THING...
SNIFF
ANY-THING HUH?
SIZZLE
...

SIZZLE
AH UH
EXCUSE ME, WE'LL HAVE TWO SETS OF TEN.
HONEY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO..
GOT IT!
SIZZLE
THEY MAKE THEM PRETTY GOOD AROUND HERE.
EH?
OH, OKAY. LET'S DO SOME TAKOYAKI THEN.
IT'LL FILL YOU UP.
ISN'T THAT A SNACK?
B-BUT--
WHY NOT? IT REALLY LOOKED LIKE YOU WANTED SOME.
BUT BUT
GROOOOOWWL
GR
KAI TEN YAKI
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE NUTRITIONAL BALANCE?
IT HAS CARBOHYDRATES (FLOUR) PROTEIN (OCTOPUS) LIPIDS (TENKASU) AND VEGETABLES (ONIONS)
COME ON. IF YOU WANT TO EAT IT, NO ONE'S STOPPING YOU.

GRIP
...AH.
I, UH...
OH NO!
I FORGOT TO EAT SOMETHING FOR LUNCH, AND...
AND HE SAW ME...
PEPPER-MINT.

OH YEAH
HWA HWA
SNIFF
THESE ARE REAL TAKOYAKI.
FOO
THESE THINGS ARE HOT AND TASTY.
HERE, HAVE SOME.
HUH? WAIT...
HURRY, OR THE SAUCE WILL DRIP.
HAH...
MPH
POP
...
...
HEH?
HO..

THAT WAS HOT.
22
YOU GOT SEAWEED ON YOUR TEETH.
EH?

WAH HAH HAH
23
HONEY...
IS SHE MAD?
HAH HAH...
CAN WE BUY SOME KAITENYAKI?
...I GUESS YOU'RE NOT DONE EATING.
ONLY BECAUSE I DIDN'T EAT LUNCH.

FOO
STEAM
MR & MRS SMITH
GENERAL STORE
I'VE NEVER TRIED ONE BEFORE
NOW I'M STARTING TO FEEL FULL.
I ALSO LIKE HOW THIS "CUSTARD" TASTES TOO
YOU'RE A KID, PEOPLE WILL LET IT SLIDE.
WOULDN'T THAT BE BAD MANNERS?
AH, BUT NOW I'M EATING WHILE WALKING AROUND
YOU DID HAVE TWO KAITENYAKI ON TOP OF THE TAKOYAKI
THAT'D FILL YOU U!
BUT THEN... WON'T THAT MAKE YOU A BAD EXAMPLE OF AN ADULT?
I WOULDN'T WISH THAT!

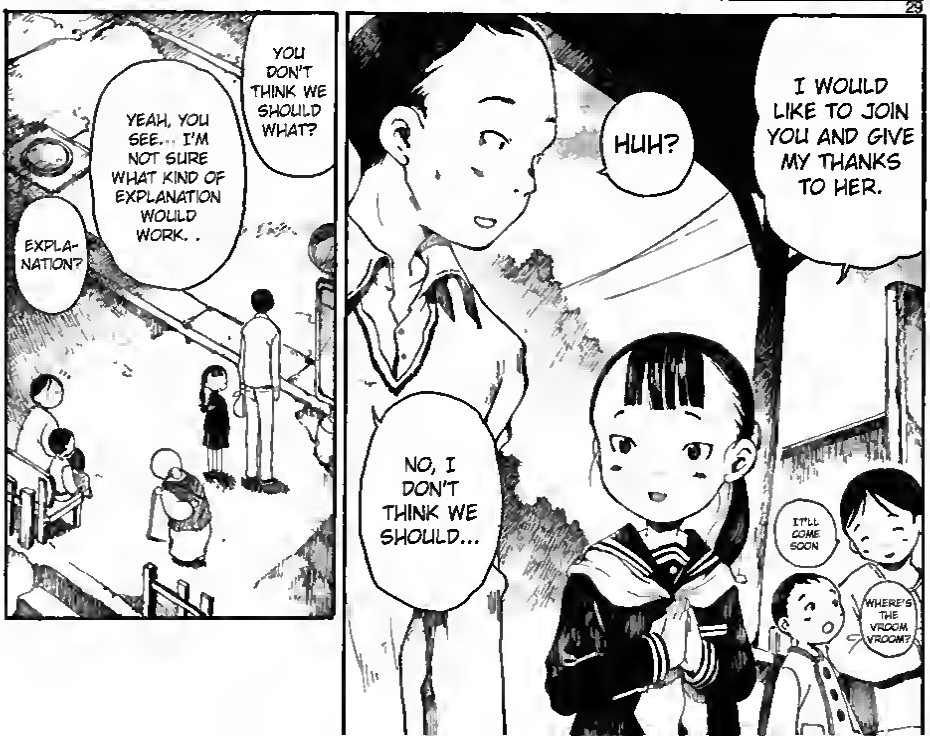
AH, SAW THROUGH THAT?
ALMOST HAD YOU
I'M EATING CUSTARD RIGHT NOW!
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!
HEH?!
BAFF
YOU GOT PASTE ON YOU.
WITH NOTHING THOUGHT OUT OR PREPARED AHEAD OF TIME.
JUST EATING WHATEVER I LIKE, HOWEVER I WANT
STILL, I'VE NEVER HAD THIS TYPE OF DINNER BEFORE.
HAMF
EVEN SO, YOU'RE STILL ALLOWED TO DO STUFF LIKE THIS
ONCE IN A WHILE.
AND THAT'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE!
I WENT THROUGH MY ENTIRE LIFE THINKING THAT IT WAS RIGHT.
I'VE BEEN MAKING FOOD FOR OTHER PEOPLE EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP EVERYTHING THE WAY IT USED TO BE.
I MEAN, EVEN IF A BUNCH THINGS TURN OUT UNEXPECTEDLY
MMM, THAT HIT THE SPOT.
I'M NOT GOING TO HATE YOU FOR IT.
CLACK

MY GOODNESS, THE MOON LOOKS LIKE A PIECE OF TAKOYAKI.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S RIGHT FOR US TO DO THIS, DEAR?
YEAH.
SHE SAID IT TURNS OUT HER HUSBAND ALREADY HAS MOST OF THE APPLIANCES SHE HAD PLANNED TO TAKE WITH HER.
PLUS THEY WANT TO BUY REPLACEMENTS AND DISPOSING THE OLD STUFF WOULD COST MONEY
I STILL FEEL BAD ABOUT DOING THIS
BUT... I CAN'T TAKE ALL HER THINGS...
IT'S TOTALLY FINE.

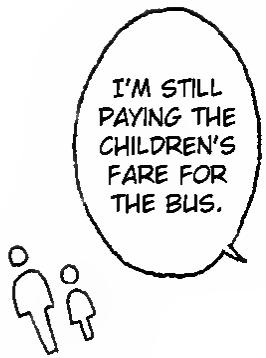
KYU BUS
MITSUIKE
BUS STOP
I'M GOING TO GET THE STUFF I CAN CARRY BACK.
LIKE A RICE COOKER, SINCE IT'S BETTER TO HAVE ONE SOONER THAN LATER.
MITSUIKE
BUS STOP
MITSU IKE
HIGASHI TOYO NAKA
融資
29


YOU DON'T THINK WE SHOULD WHAT?
YEAH, YOU SEE... I'M NOT SURE WHAT KIND OF EXPLANATION WOULD WORK. .
EXPLA-NATION?
HUH?
I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN YOU AND GIVE MY THANKS TO HER.
NO, I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD...
IT'LL COME SOON
WHERE'S THE VROOM VROOM?

THIS SEKIHAN RICE YOU MADE THIS MORNING IS THANKS ENOUGH.
BUT I STILL WON'T FEEL RIGHT ABOUT IT.
SIT HERE.
THANK YOU.
AND BESIDES, SHE HAD BEEN THERE FOR YOU ALL THIS TIME AT YOUR WORKPLACE.
30
I SHOULD THANK HER IN PERSON IN LIGHT OF THAT AS WELL.
PULL PULL
CHIT HERE, ONEE-CHAN.
OH?
CHIT HERE.

HONEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NOO!
I'M SO SORRY
I'M DOING WHAT MOMMY DID!
FLAP FLAP
H—
WAAH WAAH
WH...
WHAT ON EARTH DID HE...
HE CALLED HER "ONEE-CHAN."
GOOD...
HOW RUDE OF THAT BOY!
FOR A MOMENT

I'M SURE HE WAS JUST COPYING HIS MOM.
HONESTLY
CHILDREN THESE DAYS...
MY HEART NEARLY STOPPED.
HOW DARE HE TREAT ME LIKE AN OLD LADY!
PUFF
HOW THE HELL DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO SEE YOU?



CHAPTER TWO: TAKOYAKI AND THE MOON / END
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